

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 05528 021609Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 EB-08 COME-00
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R 021533Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8253
INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINR, NI
SUBJECT: HASSAN MOHAMMED

REF: STATE 108629 (NOTAL)

1. HASSAN MOHAMMED IS A PARTNER WITH SALEH JUMBO, INFLUENTIAL KANO BUSINESSMAN, IN STRONGHOLD NIGERIA, LIMITED. HE IS CHAIRMAN OF THE LOWER BENUE BASE AUTHORITY AND REPRESENTS A NUMBER OF AMERICAN FIRMS IN NIGERIA INCLUDING MERRILL LYNCH, JOHNSON SCREENS, ETC. HE REPORTEDLY HAS MANY CONTACTS IN THE NORTH.

2. ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION MOHAMMED STARTED AS A TEACHER, BUT LATER WORKED FOR THE OLD NORTHERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY AS AN INTERPRETER BEFORE JOINING BBC'S HAUSA SERVICE. IN 1968 HE RETURNED TO NIGERIA AS STATE INFORMATION OFFICER, LATER BECOMING PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER FOR THE NIGERIAN AIR FORCE. ACCORDING TO WEST AFRICA MAGAZINE HE SERVED IN NEW YORK AS VICE CONSUL AND WAS CONCERNED WITH THE PROBLEMS OF NIGERIAN STUDENTS IN THE U.S. WE UNDERSTAND
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PAGE 02 LAGOS 05528 021609Z

HE WAS ALSO DOING ECONOMIC WORK AND INITIATED CONTACT BY TCOM (WESTINGHOUSE) FOR THEIR MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR CONTRACT HERE. HE REPORTEDLY SERVED AS A MIDDLEMAN FOR INUWA WADA AND MURTALA MOHAMMED, THEN COMMISSIONER OF COMMUNICATION. WHEN MURTALA MOHAMMED BECAME CHIEF OF STATE HASSAN MOHAMMED WAS CALLED BACK AS HIS PRIVATE

SECRETARY. AFTER MOHAMMED'S ASSASSINATION HE WAS POSTED TO HONG KONG AS FIRST SECRETARY OF THE NIGERIAN COMMISSION AND REPORTEDLY OFFERED THE POSITION OF AMBASSADOR TO CHINA WHICH HE TURNED DOWN TO GO INTO BUSINESS.

3. ALTHOUGH HE HAS A WIFE MOHAMMED IS REPORTEDLY A NOTORIOUS WOMANIZER, EVEN BY NIGERIAN STANDARDS. EMBOFF WHO KNOWS HIM REPORTS THAT WHEN HE IS DRUNK HE OFTEN TALKS GLOWINGLY ABOUT THE VIRTUES OF SOCIALISM--A NOT UNUSUAL TRAIT FOR SUCCESSFUL NIGERIAN BUSINESSMEN.

4. FOR KADUNA: LEHMAN BROTHERS HAS REQUESTED INFORMATION ON MOHAMMED WHOM THEY ARE CONSIDERING TO INTRODUCE THEM IN NIGERIA IN ANTICIPATION OF BEING ASKED TO GIVE FINANCIAL ADVICE TO THE FMG. APPRECIATE ANY ADDITIONAL INFO YOU MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE.
WYMAN

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